

PLATTSBURGH AIR FORCE BASE,
TACTICAL AIR NAVIGATION (TACAN) FACILITY
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 9400)
Off Perimeter Road at South End of Runway
Plattsburgh
Clinton County
New York

HAER No. NY-326-AJ

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

National Park Service
Northeast Region
Philadelphia Support Office
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

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Location: Off Perimeter Road, At South End of Runway, Plattsburgh, Clinton County, New York.

UTM: 18.622120.4943280
Quad: Plattsburgh, NY-VT, 1:24,000 (1966)

Date of Construction: 1957

Architect/Engineer: Unknown

Present Owner: United States Air Force

Present Use: Air Navigation

Significance: Building No. 9400 housed a short-range, ultrahigh frequency, line-of-sight, air navigation system. The Tactical Air Navigation Facility (TACAN) provided continuous, accurate, slant-range distance and bearing information to aircraft landing at Plattsburgh AFB. The fixed TACAN station was situated on the runway centerline at the south end of the runway.

Project Information: Building No. 9400 at Plattsburgh Air Force Base (AFB) is being documented in accordance with HAER standards to mitigate for the potential adverse effects of transferring deed of title to the property from federal ownership. The property transfer is a result of the disposal and reuse of Plattsburgh AFB, pursuant to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1993. The mitigation is a stipulation of a Programmatic Agreement (PA) among the U.S. Air Force, the New York State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (October 2000).

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PLATTSBURGH AIR FORCE BASE,
TACTICAL AIR NAVIGATION (TACAN) FACILITY
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 9400)
HAER No. NY-326-AJ
(Page 2)

Summary Description of Tactical Air Navigation (TACAN) Facility (Building No. 9400)

Layout

Building No. 9400 is a small, 343 square-foot, one-story, concrete block building with a shed roof. The concrete block used on the building is a square-face block, laid up in a stacked bond. Other than personnel doors and a louvered vent, there is no other fenestration pattern to the building. The interior of the building was not inspected.

Alterations/Additions

There have been no alterations or additions made to Building No. 9400.

Function

Building No. 9400 housed Plattsburgh AFB's sophisticated air navigation equipment.

Significance

Plattsburgh AFB is situated in a region of the country that experiences harsh winters. This is further compounded by its proximity to Lake Champlain. Sophisticated air navigation and guidance systems were critical to any Strategic Air Command (SAC) installation providing landing and takeoff capabilities, but it was particularly vital to Plattsburgh AFB, where severe weather conditions often limited visibility, necessitating the use of instrument guidance rather than visual observation. Accordingly, because Building No. 9400 was critical to the SAC readiness mission, it was a critical element in the Cold War deterrence of Soviet aggression. The building was used throughout the Cold War-era through 1988.

Sources

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1967 "Missile Sites Get Peaceful Use" in *Herald American "Empire,"* June 4.

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1995 *Survey of Cold War-Era Buildings and Structures at Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Clinton County, New York.* Prepared for the U.S. Department of the Air Force, Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence, Brooks Air Force Base, Texas.

United States Air Force

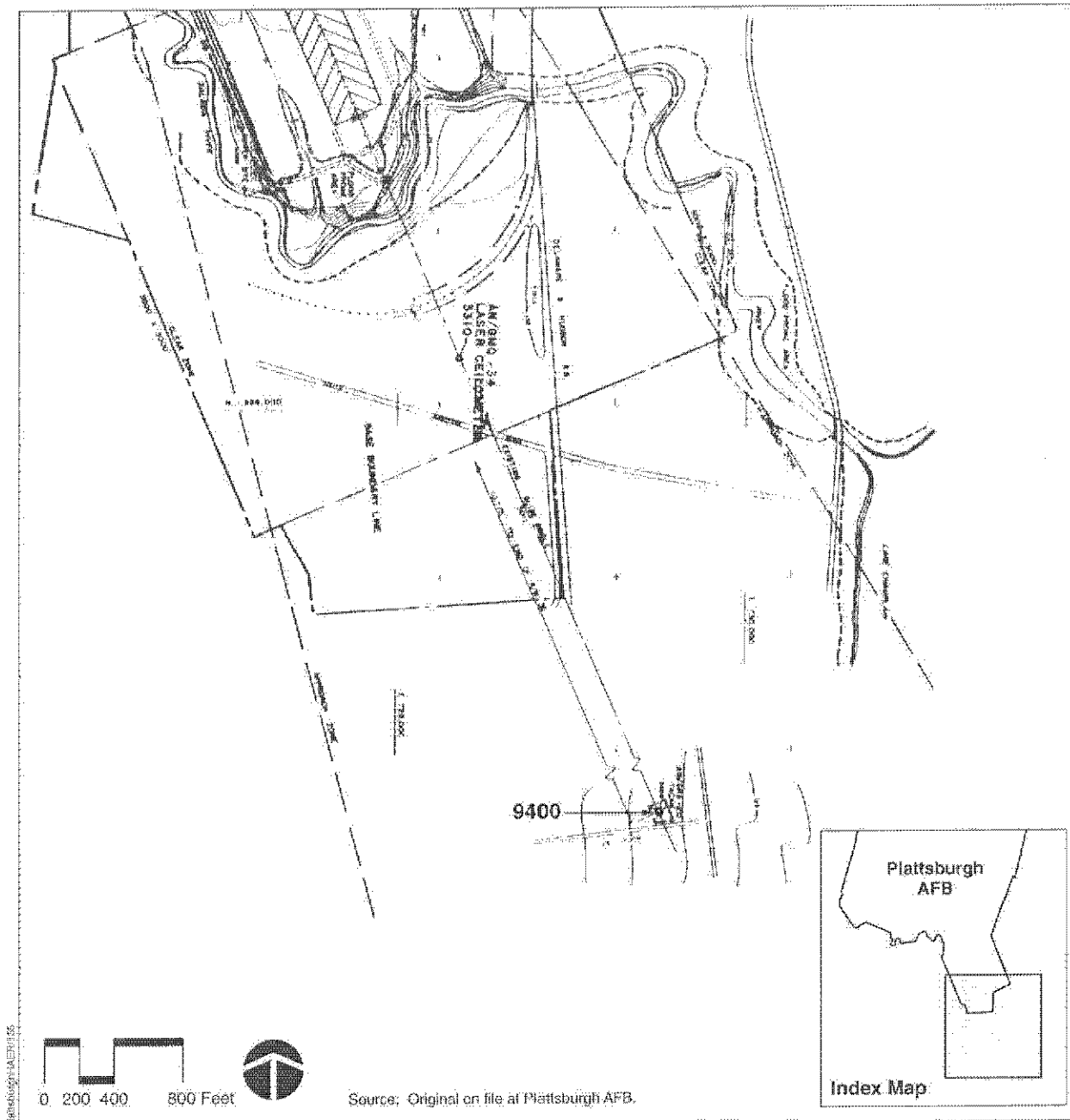
1961 Plattsburgh AFB Real Property Accountable Record, 1961-1989.

PLATTSBURGH AIR FORCE BASE,
TACTICAL AIR NAVIGATION (TACAN) FACILITY
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 9400)
HAER No. NY-326-AJ
(Page 3)

United States Air Force
2000 Plattsburgh AFB Real Property Inventory Detail List.

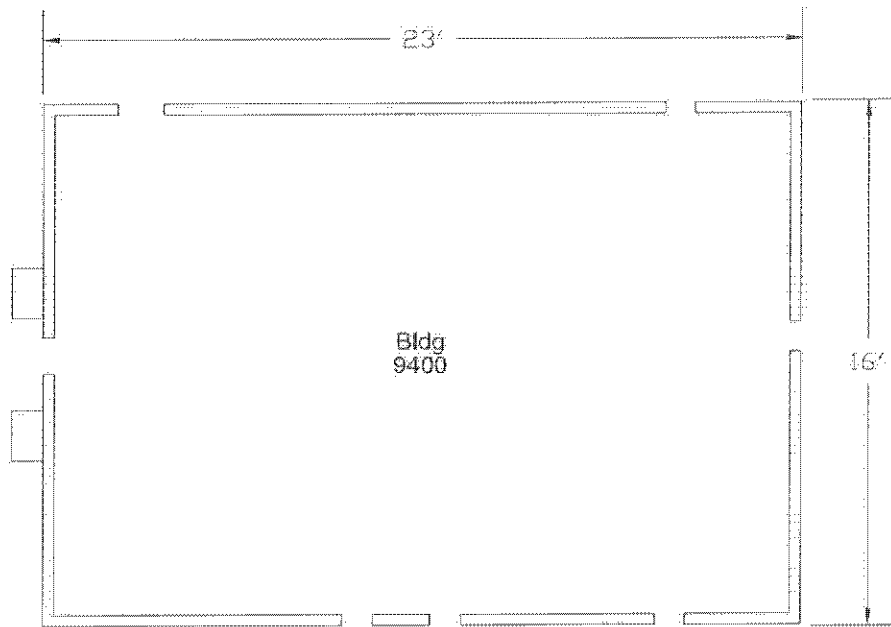
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1998 Draft Historic Building Inventory and Evaluation Plattsburgh Air Force Base New York,
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PLATTSBURGH AIR FORCE BASE,
TACTICAL AIR NAVIGATION (TACAN) FACILITY
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 9400)
HAER No. NY-326-AJ
(Page 4)



Location Map for Tactical Air Navigation (TACAN) Facility, Building No. 9400
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PLATTSBURGH AIR FORCE BASE,
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HAER No. NY-326-AJ
(Page 5)



Sketch not to Scale

SKETCH PLAN—TACTICAL AIR NAVIGATION (TACAN) FACILITY
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 9400)
(Source: Plattsburgh AFB CAD File, Prepared by the United States Air Force, ca 2000)
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